

Is America really unable to learn from history? At one time in our history the government saw that monopolies were destructive to the public good, especially media moguls like William Randolph Hearst who have a political agenda: Yet media corporations are being conglomerated into fewer and fewer entities. This process is silencing open debate, and upsetting the practice of fair and balanced reporting on issues. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. When large companies control the airwaves, we no longer get what we need to strengthen our democratic foundation.

The FCC is responsible for monitoring the people's airwaves. How can you allow any individual who is renting air time from the American public, not to service all Americans? Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Their action in essence amounts to false advertising. Sinclair is duty bound to serve the public at large, and because they operate under an FCC license

the viewing public believe that they are being held to their contractual obligations. Sinclair is clearly thumbing their noses at their obligation to the ethics of American democracy. How can we allow the public good to be disregarded in such a blatant way? Politics aside, how can the FCC allow an agent of the public to act in a deceptive and openly biased manner?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.